

**Northern District Branch - License Agreement with
Delisle Youth Services**

Date:	May 10, 2010
To:	Toronto Public Library Board
From:	City Librarian

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to inform the Toronto Public Library Board about a joint program at Northern District Branch with Delisle Youth Services and to seek approval of the license agreement. Delisle Youth Services has received 2010 Trillium and Health Canada funding to create and staff a youth media and art space at Northern District Branch that will serve as a gateway or conduit to the Northern District Branch and Delisle Youth Services which is located on the second floor.

Delisle Youth Services and Toronto Public Library staff have begun discussions about the possibilities for joint programming which will include youth reading and writing groups, media programmes and computer instruction to connect the youth space to the resources of the library. Youth engagement will be a cornerstone of the development and implementation of the service.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Librarian recommends that the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. approves a license agreement with Delisle Youth Services for a period of five years to create a youth media lab and art space in Suite 100 (former basement pub space) at Northern District Branch; and
2. authorizes and directs the appropriate Library staff to take the necessary actions to give effect hereto.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Delisle Youth Services has received Trillium and Health Canada funding in the amount of \$150,000 which will be used for renovation, equipment and furnishings for Suite 100 at Northern District, and for staffing. The license agreement will require Delisle to pay

all operating costs, including common area costs, associated with Suite 100. The operating costs to be recovered over the five years of the license agreement are approximately \$40,000 per annum.

Toronto Public Library will support the joint program by foregoing base rent, which is an estimated loss of potential revenues of \$16,000 per annum. However, Suite 100 is currently being used for library purposes and therefore not generating any rental income.

The Director, Finance & Treasurer has reviewed this financial impact statement and is in agreement with it.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Delisle Youth Services staff participated in a Library Strategic Planning focus group in 2008. This led Delisle Youth Services staff to understand that Delisle Youth Services and Toronto Public Library share a number of strategic goals: supporting youth, engaging diverse communities, addressing the growing income gap and fostering creativity and culture. The Director of Counseling and Community Services at Delisle Youth Services approached Library staff about partnering to create a media lab at Northern District Branch.

Delisle Youth Services is a multi-service agency serving children & youth throughout Toronto. It started in 1972 and has been located at 40 Orchard View Boulevard since 1970. Delisle Youth Services provides residential and counseling programs as well as community programs including the Delisle Youth Gallery which attracts at risk and Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Trans-gendered and Queer youth from across the city, a homeless prevention program, a youth diversity project in Regent Park, and a Queer Youth mural project. A focus area for Delisle Youth Services is high needs secondary students in Toronto. The organization has counselors in six high schools across the city including Northern Secondary, North Toronto Collegiate Institute, Lawrence Park Collegiate Institute, York Memorial Collegiate Institute, Vaughan Road Academy and Bendale Business and Technical Institute.

Discussions have been on-going since early 2008 with staff at Delisle Youth Services about this partnership, its aims, purpose and location. A memorandum of understanding was developed in 2009 to support Delisle Youth Service's application for Trillium funding. This application was successful and in April 2010, Delisle Youth Services received \$150,000 from Trillium to renovate the space and provide furniture and equipment.

The space that Toronto Public Library is providing for this youth space is in the basement at Northern District (Suite 100 at 2,494 square feet), that formerly housed a pub. It has been determined that Suite 100 will not be required for Library office space and is currently being used as library meeting space in anticipation of the creation of this youth space.

Through grant funding, Delisle Youth Services is providing staff, making renovations to outfit the space with a kitchenette and washroom, providing furniture and equipment. Library staff is working with Delisle Youth Services staff on programming opportunities. Toronto Public Library will have regular access to the space.

COMMENTS

A visible youth space equipped with computers and media and art equipment will be complementary to the services available at Northern District Branch. Delisle Youth Services currently runs a number of programs in their offices, located on the second floor at Northern District Branch. The Library has worked with Delisle on a number of occasions and the results have been successful. Northern District has a vibrant and active Youth Advisory Group. Northern District Branch will be renovated this summer as part of the Infrastructure Stimulus funding project and will have a newly designed youth space with ample space for group and individual study that will complement the activities of the new youth media and art lab.

The proposed media and art lab will be a youth-friendly, youth-led studio and lounge space. Youth engagement will begin with the media lab supporting Delisle Youth Service's existing arts based programming and will allow for the expansion of these initiatives by offering sustained, year-round resources for youth. There will be a specific emphasis on the engagement of diverse communities (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer and ethnically and religiously diverse youth). Toronto Public Library will provide youth and intergenerational programming, including gaming, in the space. The Library will also have access to the space in the mornings for internal meetings.

The outside courtyard adjacent to the proposed space is one that is under-utilized and currently poses some security issues. Creating a youth friendly space would animate and enliven the area. It will be possible to experiment with outside programming in this area and to create an outside reading area.

A five-year license agreement is being drafted that reflects the timelines, use of space and specific responsibilities of each partner. This license will reflect the non-exclusive nature of the joint use of the space and outline the financial responsibilities of each party. A joint steering committee with youth representation will guide the relationship and service.

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SIGNATURE

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